



Grace Notes

Gather • Feed • Send

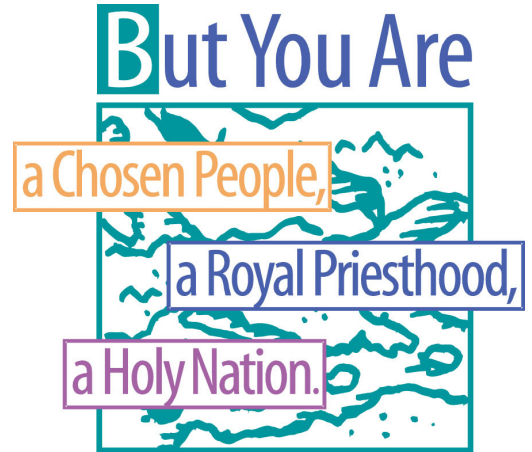
November 2023

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AdventFest on Dec. 3 – The Holy Land in Harkins Hall at Grace!

If years of hearing Bible stories at church and Sunday School have piqued your curiosity about The Holy Lands, come to our fellowship hall on **Sunday, December 3** (the first Sunday of Advent) for our annual AdventFest event at **11:40 a.m.** (following morning worship) and “angels” from Grace will bring The Holy Lands to you!



Starting at **11:40 a.m.** you can enjoy a Middle-eastern themed potluck lunch in Harkins Hall (beneath the sanctuary) while listening to sacred carols and selections from Tchaikowsky’s, The Nutcracker, played by the Fair Winds Trio (Laurel Sanders, flute; Jenny Koberna, clarinet; and Rich Manning, bassoon). Explore display tables with items from The Holy Lands (contact Faith Formation or Laurel if you have something to display); put your name into a drawing to win fun and useful prizes; learn to pray The Lord’s Prayer in Arabic from a native; listen as our children and youth choirs usher in the season with seasonal music; and join in the singing. The event will end between **1:15 and 1:30 p.m.**

Want to help make the event special? We are looking for two kinds of “angels” – those who can add to the lunch provided by our Super Wednesday and Faith Formation team (Mediterranean Beef Stew and baklava will be provided; we would welcome donations of child-friendly foods, hummus, pita bread or other Middle-Eastern breads, salads, or alternative desserts) and any special or unusual “angel” ornaments or decorations we can add to our angel-themed display table. These divine messengers announced to Mary that she would bear God’s son, Jesus; told Joseph to take Mary as his wife and, later, to leave Bethlehem and flee to Egypt; and announced the news of Jesus’s birth to the shepherds...all in The Holy Lands!

If you can contribute to the buffet or have an angel decoration or item from The Holy Lands to display, please email Cindy or Peter at faithformation@glcpa.org, contact Laurel at lsanders@glcpa.org, or leave a message in the church office at 814-238-2478. All items can be brought to Harkins Hall on the day of the event any time between **7:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.** and taken home with you at **1:30** that day.

Thank you!



Help us to better serve our local and global communities. Scan here to make a donation to Grace.

From Our Senior Pastor



The Rev. Scott E. Schul
pastorschul@glcpa.org

Love Bade Me Welcome

One of my favorite poets is George Herbert, who was a pastor in the Church of England and lived from 1593-1633.



He was not well-known during his life; his fame only grew when his marvelous collection of poems was discovered and published after his death. Since then, his words have inspired people from all walks of life and especially renowned poets who came long after him, like Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Emily Dickinson, Gerard Manley Hopkins, T. S. Eliot, and W. H. Auden.

One of my favorite poems by Herbert is entitled Love (III) and is an imagined conversation between

the poet and Christ. As the poet approaches the Lord's table, he recognizes his unworthiness. But Love – personified by Christ himself – insists on feeding and nourishing the poet. Here are the opening lines:

Love bade me welcome. Yet
my soul drew back
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, ob-
serving me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly
questioning,
If I lacked any thing.

I encourage you to remember that timeless phrase: “Love bade me welcome.” Let it be for you an ongoing reminder of Christ's invitation to you to come to church, worship, be forgiven, and be fed by his body and blood. Do not fret over what you lack. Come to Christ and be transformed.

There are a lot of things to share with you this month, so with Christ's loving invitation ringing in our ears and hearts, let's get right to it.

Farewell to the 6 p.m. Worship Service

At its October meeting, Grace's Council accepted my recommendation to end our 6 p.m. worship service. The last service will be held on **November 12** and will include a “sending and farewell” for the two members of our Psalm 151 praise band. This service began about 20 years ago, after a long period of strife between Grace and Lutheran Campus Ministry. It was conceived by Ruth Jenson and Janis Sloka as an opportunity to make peace by doing something positive on a cooperative basis. The service

started off in Harkins Hall and only later moved the service into the sanctuary

There were times over the last two decades when this service was very popular, with as many as 60 people in attendance. Over the last few years, however, attendance at this service has steadily declined. In the last few months as few as three people have shown up. The average (not counting worship leaders and musicians) is around eight. Everything in life as well as in the church has a season, and we have concluded that the season for this service has passed. There are a few specific factors that were especially important in making this decision:

1. The 6 p.m. service was intended to appeal to college students, but the vast majority of them now attend the morning liturgies at Grace. That is the style of worship they are used to hearing in their home congregations, and provides them with a welcome feeling of familiarity and the fellowship of a multigenerational group of worshippers.
2. The 6 p.m. service was a useful means for non-students who missed the morning liturgies to drop-in at night for church. That practice is very rare now; most instead now opt to watch the livestream broadcast.
3. The leader of our Psalm 151 praise band, Adam Smith, has taken a job at another university and there is little chance we will be able to find a replacement at his level of musical ability, leadership, and flexibility.

Pastor Hetrick and I are reaching out to the non-students who often

attend this service so that they are aware of the full range of worship options available at Grace. Deacon Alicia Anderson is doing the same with the student community. As you know, she is also a regular guest in worship at our 9 and 10:30 morning services and will continue to have significant interaction with students at those two services.

As I have been saying throughout the pandemic and in its immediate aftermath, this era of Grace's ministry is an opportunity to honestly assess which of our ministries continue to be vibrant and which have reached their natural end. The life of Christian discipleship is a cycle of births and deaths. As the cross reminds us, death leads to new life, and that is certainly the case with the end of our 6 p.m. service. We will be investing some of the money we allocated to the 6 p.m. worship service to enhance our music ministry for children and youth. We will also be able to provide some funding for the inspiring Ecumenical Concert event that Laurel Sanders has traditionally offered at Grace during Holy Week; it makes its post-COVID return next Spring.

I know some will be disappointed by the discontinuation of this service, but it is the right thing to do given how different the world is from what it was just 20 years ago. Rest assured that we plan no changes to our Sunday morning worship services. If you have any questions about the 6 p.m. service and its retirement, please contact me.

Liturgical Returns

Soon you will see some traditional pre-COVID features of our liturgy and worship practices make their return. In summary:

- Beginning in November, our ushers will again come forward with the offering (prior to the

communion liturgy). It is richly symbolic of the congregation's offering of time, talent, and treasures which God calls us to make. It also serves as a practical reminder – especially to visitors – that contributions are needed to fund our ministry. Plates will continue to be available in the Narthex for those who want to make their offering after worship.

- Beginning on Reformation Sunday (**October 29**), whenever we have a choir in worship (typically at **10:30 a.m.** but sometimes also at **9 a.m.**), we will resume processing with the choir at the beginning and end of worship. This practice is also powerfully symbolic because it teaches us to always follow the cross. One of the acolytes will usually carry the cross. We will be inviting a range of people of different ages to carry God's Word. The title for that person is the "Gospeler." That person will be a powerful reminder of the importance of carrying and being accompanied by God's Word throughout life.

Narthex Refurbishment

As you know from prior issues of Grace Notes and our Sunday bulletin, we are in the midst of a long-overdue update of our Narthex so we can: (1) better welcome our guests; (2) more easily and effectively engage our members; and (3) provide our hospitality volunteers with everything they need to ensure that everyone who visits Grace has a positive experience that will draw them closer to Jesus.

The first phase of the refurbishment was tidying up the food supplies

at the end of the Narthex near the angel windows. Our Helping Hands team installed shelving and will soon be enclosing those shelves in wooden cabinets. In addition, our chief sexton Roy Evert and our Property Team chair John Palmgren have replaced much of the lighting with high-efficiency LED bulbs. I hope you have already noticed that the space is significantly brighter.

The second phase of the refurbishment will soon begin. We will be relocating some rarely-used coat racks to a space near the ramp entrance. We will then relocate the Welcome Center to the alcove that is at the top of the steps which leads to the main entrance. This will enable us to offer better hospitality to the many people who enter that door, which was added as part of the 2011 building addition.

We have much more planned to make this space more welcoming and user-friendly, but I wanted you to be aware of these "second phase" enhancements because they will begin to change things in an even more visible way.

Once our refurbishment is complete and rededicated, we will rename that space in honor of Pastor Steve Lynn's many years of service to Grace and the spirit of hospitality he fostered here and which has exemplified his ministry.

Honoring our Military Veterans

Some months ago Council authorized the installation of a memorial stone near our columbarium that will honor Grace's veterans. The pad the marker will sit upon has been poured, and we believe the stone will be delivered and set very soon. Assuming we do not experience any logistical delays, we plan

~ Cont'd on p. 21

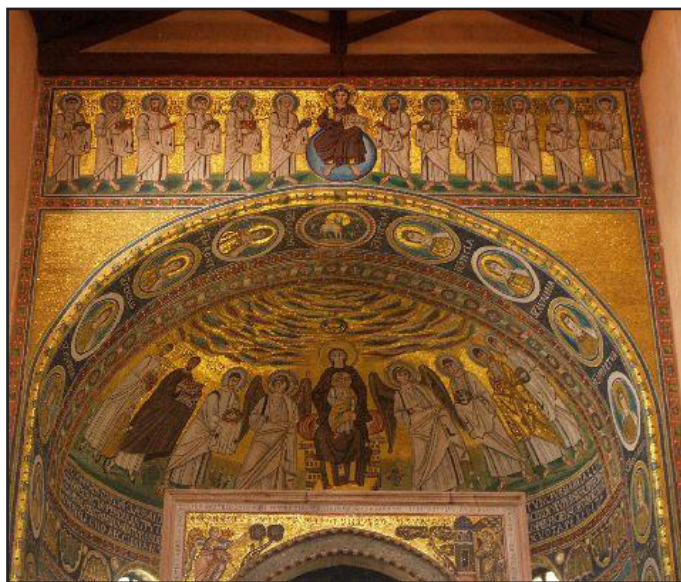


From Our Associate Pastor

We begin this month celebrating All Saints Day and by the end we will be entering the season of Advent and the songs of Mary and Elizabeth. This season always seems to me to be a time where our faith journey on earth and the church of the saints are so very close. The Irish call these “thin spaces.” As the historian in my family, I’ve been the collector of pictures and small things that tell the story of those who came before me. Having some tangible thing to hold or look at helps me imagine their lives and to spend time with them. Perhaps you yourself still hold onto the tie tack someone wore, the favorite cast iron skillet, the memento of a trip or something else that draws you close to someone. Creating times of contemplation grounds me in gratitude and awe to have communion with, and connect myself to, the stories of those who make up the cloud of witnesses we know as the saints.

Last year for All Saints Sunday, my heart was so full when I saw the pictures some of you brought to worship to place at the altar, reminding us of your beloveds in the communion of saints. We will again encourage you to bring a photo of a beloved saint to place at the altar on **November 5th**, All Saints Sunday. You may allow it to stay there for all of the services or take it with you again as you leave worship. Christ promises us we will be reunited again. Until then, as we endeavor to live lives of faith, we can know that that cloud of witnesses, who also knew joys and struggles, is encouraging us.

As I continue to create my clergy renewal grant, one aspect of my time is to travel to see saints from whom I am separated by millennia, but whose lives are an inspiration to me. Although seeing pictures on a computer has helped me plan, I want to be in the thin spaces that art can create that speak to my soul. One of those spaces is Euphrasiana Basilica in Porec, Croatia. There has been a worship space here since the 4th century, though time, theft, weather and conflict have led to the building over of parts and later rediscovering them. Effective preservation and restoration have enabled accurate representation of the mosaics there. Seeing them now is increasingly important as the Adriatic Sea rises each year and at the highest tides, some mosaics are now below sea level.



Euphrasiana Basilica in Porec, Croatia

In particular, what is drawing me is the images of 12 women who have become saints, rising above the everyday: Agathe, Euphemia, Thecla, Valeria, Perpetua, Susana, Justina, Agnes, Cecilia, Eugenia, Basilissa and Felicitas. Many or all of these



The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick
pastorhetrick@glcpa.org

women may be unknown to you. They are depicted on an arch above Mary holding Jesus. Nearby, a pregnant Mary is visiting a very pregnant Elizabeth and they are dressed in worship leadership garments.

Thecla, one of the 12, was a missionary. Her life is depicted in writings at the time called Acts of Paul and the Acts of Thecla written in the second century CE. Later more is written in the Life of Thecla in the 5th century. She hears Paul preach and is so absorbed by his message of the gospel, she abandons family and follows him to Antioch. Later he commissions her to spread the gospel, teach and baptize converts in what becomes modern day Iran. This countercultural life puts her at odds with her family and society, so much so that there is debate

whether she was just allowed to teach or should be permitted to baptize, a role reserved for male leaders.

An ancient Christian writer, Tertullian, complains that she is a “woman of pertness who has usurped the power to teach, but this will of

course not give birth to the right of baptizing.”



The Basilica in Croatia depicts an abundance of women saints, and also depicts Mary and Elizabeth as leaders. Why did Bishop Euphrasius choose these images and why are they retained in spite of centuries of doctrine in the opposite? In part, this is consistent with the depiction of Mary as a leader in the early church in the East. What were the lives of these women like as leaders in the Jesus movement? They were

not silent. They lifted their hands to pray in front of crowds, they cast out demons and held authority. We know that in the end they were all martyrs. It is almost ironic that they are fixed on the wall when so much of their lives of ministry was “on the move.”

I imagine that spending time in communion with these saints echoes the story that the church across time has always wrestled with-what is essential. We see this in the scriptural tensions of Timothy and Paul and leaders of the church, and our own time. But when we step back to see the big picture, we see the Church of Jesus Christ living and moving and transforming. Bringing this closer to home, the stories of these women remind me that in the early church there was a sense of urgency that the gospel be taken and lived wherever it could be in prayer and preaching and forming disciples. How might we take the gospel where it is needed?

The women of the church were, by their mere existence, transformational. Their history gives me hope that Christ will continue to form and raise up leaders, both in the ways we expect and those we do not. I think of seeing all genders serving at the altar here at Grace and cherish the story of one of our own saying she was the first girl to serve at the altar in her church, all because she asked. I give thanks when we no longer wait for someone to ask, but instead are those who invite and encourage and empower. These three ways of being make us different from much of the world around us. As you give thanks for your beloveds, perhaps you can ponder how inviting, encouraging and empowering were passed on to you, and ask God to help you carry that light into the lives of others until we are all, as the hymn says, “blessed communion, fellowship divine.”

Yours in Christ,
~Pastor Carolyn

Wednesday Night Music Classes - A Chance to Explore and Have Fun!

Grace Lutheran’s REJOICE and JOYFUL NOISE Wednesday music classes are a fun way to explore the world of sound and make music together. On **September 27**, eight elementary school students in our REJOICE music classes were introduced to our pipe organ by Cynthia Mills. Each student learned how to use their hands and feet to create diverse sounds.

It was an amazing experience!

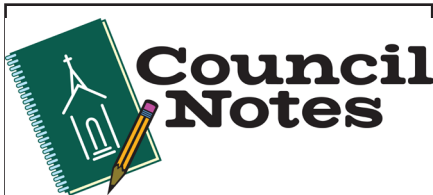




Finances for 2023

Church FINANCES	GLC Actual Income vs. Expense, September 2023	GLC Budgeted Income vs. Expense, September 2023	+ or (-)	%
Income	\$56,269.53	\$69,840.00	(\$13,570.47)	-19.43%
Expenses	\$71,271.81	\$77,247.59	(\$5,975.78)	-7.73%
Net Income	(\$15,002.28)	(\$7,407.59)		

After record-breaking giving in August, September's giving fell off noticeably at Grace, but we also maintained our expenses below budget. Looking historically, the church continues to steadily grow in giving and generally (though not consistently) keeps pace with the inevitable increase in expenses. Thank you for your continued generous support! The most convenient and helpful way to ensure steady support is by a secure, scheduled monthly bank transfer (called an "ACH") from you to Grace. To set this up, or to increase or change your monthly account transfer, email Sally Grine, Finc. Admin. at sgrine@glcpa.org or call her at 814-238-2478. You can also donate using any major credit card via Tithely, which is accessible via the GIVE button on our website at www.glcpa.org. Please consider covering the processing fee (approximately 2% of your donation) to ensure Grace benefits fully from your support. An increase of \$20, \$10, \$5, or even \$1 per week from many people can make a significant difference. ~ *Thank you!*



Council Highlights

At its October 2023 meeting, Grace's Church Council:

- Voted to end the **6 p.m.** worship service at the conclusion of the **November 12, 2023** service. (See Pastor Schul's article for further details);
- Received an update from Cathy Smarkusky and Dawn Vandenheovel on Grace Lutheran Preschool; and
- Approved a small modification of Grace's stone sign at the corner of Beaver and Garner that will add the Preschool's name in order to help with visibility for the school.

The Adult Choir Needs Your Voice

The Adult Choir at Grace is welcoming new singers! If you are interested in singing great music with even greater people, please consider joining us for rehearsals **Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** and for the **10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Services**. No experience is necessary. There is no requirement to attend every week (unless you would like to!). We would love to have new singers join us whenever it fits into their schedule. Please consider joining us as we share our gifts of song to enrich worship here at Grace. If you have any questions, please email Nate Glocke at nathan-glocke@gmail.com. Hope to see you soon!



Join the choir...
You'll Be Glad You Did!

Calling All Medical and Mental Health Professionals

Our Usher List of Medical Professionals needs to be updated. This resource is used by our Ushers in case someone at Church falls ill, gets injured, or has a medical emergency. If you are a medical or mental health professional and want to be identified on this list, please send the following information to Rebecca Rabb at glcenotes@gmail.com by **November 20:**

- Name
- Profession (Physician, Nurse, Paramedic, EMT, Mental Health Professional, etc.)
- Specialty in your field
- Church Service You Attend

Thank you for sharing your talents in caring for our Church family!

Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Sunday	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Holy Gospel
November 5 All Saints Sunday	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
November 12 24th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 5:18-24	Psalm 70	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
November 19 25th Sunday after Pentecost	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
November 26 Christ the King Sunday	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 95:1-7a	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46

Worship WORDS

Each month in “Worship Words” we explore a different word that relates to an aspect of our worship life and unpack its meaning and significance. This month, we will examine a very uncommon word that

points us to an uncommonly wonderful promise: **anamnesis**.

The word **anamnesis** is Greek and means “remembrance.” It is a unique “worship word” in that it does not refer to any tangible item or furniture related to worship. Nor is it the name of a particular piece of liturgy or song that we utilize in worship. Instead, it refers to our reaction to worship. In particular, our response of remembering – our **anamnesis** – is supposed to happen during the communion liturgy when the pastor quotes Jesus, who said “do this for the remembrance of me” with both the bread and the wine.

But what exactly do we remember? This moment in worship is a chance to remember the *past*, as we ponder the love of Jesus that carried him to the cross so that he could defeat sin, death, and the devil for us. We also remember Jesus’s promise that in Holy Communion, we would receive his body and blood so that he could be present with us, bless us, forgive us, and fill us. This act of remembering accompanies us in the *present*, as we prepare our hearts and minds to receive Christ in, with, and through the communion elements. Fortified by his body, blood, presence, and promises, we can then face the *future* with confidence and joy.

The **anamnesis** or remembering that we do as part of communion is an action, but it’s also a mindset or disposition – an approach to worship and indeed to life itself that puts Christ at the center of all we are and all we do. And so I encourage you to engage in some holy remembering throughout worship but especially during the communion liturgy. In communion Jesus does not come to us merely as a pious sentiment or something in the past but as a real and vibrant presence, here and now. Thanks be to God!

~ Pastor Schul

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Caring Partners in Times of Challenges

Grace’s Stephen Ministers are actively engaged in serving the congregation of Grace and the wider Centre County community in their role of caring partners to people that are experiencing some of life’s challenges. The Stephen Ministers fulfill their mission by listening, understanding, and praying with people as they work through difficulties including illness, grief, divorce and job loss.

Another role that Stephen Ministers fill at Grace is assisting with church services that reach out to hurting people. Last month they were part of our annual Healing Service. They are now actively helping to plan with our pastors and music director the December “A Night for Weary Hearts,” service, formerly Blue Christmas. This service is meant to bring comfort to those that struggle with finding joy during the holiday season. The service will be in the Sanctuary on **December 14th at 4:00 p.m.**

If you or someone you know think they may benefit from a Stephen Minister relationship please reach out to Grace’s Stephen Ministry Coordinator Brenda Palmgren at 814-238-2944.

Congregational News & Events



SO MANY BLESSINGS

All Saints Day Service and Luncheon Nov. 5



Sunday, November 5th we celebrate saints across time. This year we again invite you to share a picture of a saint who has graced your life - maybe a parent, aunt, grandparent or friend whose earthly journey has ended - to be placed in front of the altar before worship

begins. We will help you place it as a visual remembrance that we are all a part of the communion of the saints. We will, as always, name in prayer those saints from our congregation who have entered the church triumphant in the past year. We will toll the bell and light a candle for each of them, as well as a candle for all the other saints beloved to us from beyond our congregation. Following the **10:30 a.m.** service, the families of those who have died in the past year have been invited to a luncheon in Harkins Hall. Thank you to Brenda and Mi A Kim and our Stephen Ministers for their hospitality and support on this day.



Advent Craft Workshop on Thursday, Nov 30 at 6 p.m. in Fireside

Calling all crafters: Come to Grace for a fun Advent evening! Hear a few words about angels and seasonal music as you make angel ornaments from wired ribbon, gems, and bells as well as gift boxes

from recycled Christmas cards. The workshop will be led by Grace member Sally Horn, who is known for her skilled weaving and crafts that involve yarn, ribbons, and fabrics. Whether you are interested in making a simple gift for someone else or for your own home, Sally will help you to unpack your creativity in making joyful and colorful angels. Light refreshments will be provided along with craft supplies, and attendees can expect to complete their crafts at the workshop. Children age 8 and above can participate and there is no cost to attend. Join us!

RSVP to Laurel Sanders by Monday, November 27 at lsanders@glcpa.org or call her at 814-883-8484 for details.

Christmas Comfort Tree

The familiar Christmas tree in the narthex, which will appear this month, has become the **Christmas Comfort Tree** (previously the Hat and Mitten Tree). In addition to hats, scarfs, gloves and mittens, it will now contain donated socks. The socks will be given to Out of the Cold thanks to Grace's Faith Formation team. The other items, as usual, will be gathered by Women of Grace and taken to Children and Youth Services in Bellefonte. Both handmade and store-bought items are welcome. Thanks for helping to make this winter a little warmer for people in our community.



Thanksgiving Dinner

Our traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be served on **Wednesday, November 15 in Harkins Hall with extended time, 5-6:15 p.m.**

Our menu will include:

- Roast turkey w/gravy
- apple sage stuffing
- mashed potatoes
- candied sweet potatoes
- baked corn
- cranberry sauce
- Hawaiian sweet rolls
- dessert and drink.

Suggested donation: \$6/person with \$15 family max.



Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social

Join with your Grace family and friends on Thanksgiving Eve for the annual pie social in Harkins Hall. All pies and people are welcome! The event follows the Thanksgiving Eve service, **Wednesday, November 22**. This is your chance to taste a little bit of all kinds of different pies and to start your Thanksgiving celebration of gratitude and good food. Hope to see you there. Store-bought pies are welcome.

Remember – Sunday, November 12 is Jared Box Dedication Sunday!

A Jared Box is the gift of play to children in the hospital. Play is important, and a serious illness or injury shouldn't interfere with the need to play! Bring your filled Jared boxes back to Grace on **November 12** and place them on the altar prior to any morning service for prayers before they are delivered to hospitals in our region.



There is still time to make a Jared Box! There are plenty of boxes left in the Narthex for you to take and fill. To make a Jared Box, fill a plastic storage box with small toys, games, and fun activities, selected for a specific age and gender.

The Jared Box Project, now known throughout the US and Canada, was started to honor a little boy from State College named Jared. He was a brave little boy who battled cancer with courage, a positive attitude, and a sense of humor. The Jared Box Project recently celebrated One Million Smiles!

Learn more about The Jared Box Project at: <http://www.thejaredbox.com>

Green Tip for November

With the Christmas season fast approaching, shopping may be something you have started. Please consider the impact to the environment as you make purchasing decisions. Some things to consider:

- Commit to reuse, repair, and recycle in the present rather than discard, despoil, and destroy our future. Do it for the children and grandchildren you know and love. Maybe you can re-gift rather than purchasing new things. Better yet, consider gifts that are not disposable items. Consider sharing your time and talents to create memories, rather than giving objects.
- Look for both the product you want and for a provider that cares for creation. Some companies donate a percentage of profits to ocean clean up or planting trees, for example. Some start with sustainable materials and ethical practices. Read the "About" on the vendor's website. Support those providers.
- Choose bamboo, where possible. It's sustainable—a resource that is fast growing, self-renewing, water conserving, carbon sequestering, poverty reducing, and more. It's versatile—used in personal care products, clothing, musical instruments, building materials, paper, towels, sheets, recreational equipment, furniture, and more.
- Consider the impact of transporting your purchases. Ask vendors for — and choose — slow shipping (non-airplane).



Sisters of Grace

The November meeting of the Sisters of Grace Circle will be **Monday, November 13 at 6:00 p.m.** in Fireside. The program will be a presentation about Interfaith Human Services by board president Sue Forster. All women of Grace and friends are welcome to attend. There will be no December meeting.

The Garden of Readin' Meets November 21

The next meeting of the Garden of Readin' (Women's Book Club) is **Tuesday, November 21 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Stinson Library (also available on Zoom). The selected book is *Facing the Mountain: An Inspiring Story of Japanese American Patriots in World War II* by Daniel James Brown. The discussion will be facilitated by Susan Hirth. Contact Lois Lynn (lois-steve@comcast.net) for details.

Meeting Time Change Coming in 2024

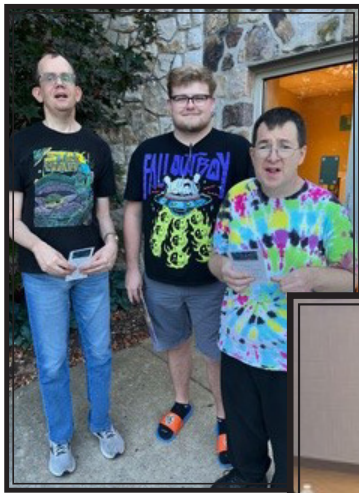
Starting in 2024 the Sisters of Grace Circle will be meeting at a different time. Taking advantage of Daylight Savings Time and milder weather, **members will meet on the second Monday each month from March to October at 6:30 p.m.** The first meeting will be **Monday, March 11, 2024**. The focus of the group will be spiritual practices as described in *The Sacred Way* by Tony Jones. All women are welcome to attend.

Disciples Together

Disciples Together

On **October 4th** Disciples Together and Faith Formation Family Activity Time celebrated God's Beautiful World in the Miller Center on St. Francis of Assisi day. We shared pictures and pets and talked about our favorite creatures. "When God saw everything God made, God said it was VERY GOOD!"

We will meet again on **Wednesday, November 1** in the Library to give thanks all the Saints - the people who have loved us who are in heaven. We will light candles and tell stories and pray.



Celebrating St. Francis of Assisi Day in the Miller Center

November 12 Bucket Collection to Benefit Centre Volunteers in Medicine

Centre Volunteers in Medicine cares for and advocates for the medically underserved living or working in Centre County, operating a medical clinic, a dental clinic, a behavioral health care unit, case management services, a point of care lab and a medication program all vitally needed by patients in our community.



Please support this appeal with:

1. Cash or check (with CVIM on the memo line) during the Bucket Collection after each service on **Nov. 12**
2. Via check mailed to the office **11/3 -11/26**
3. Via Tithe.ly at our website at **www.glca.org. 11/3 -11/26**

Thank you! Together at Grace, we make a difference.

DEIB Team News: Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Belonging

Happy Fall! In November we will continue to focus on Indigenous People by honoring Native American Heritage Month. November also brings the celebration and observance of Veteran's Day on **November 11**.

The DEIB team would like to extend a sincere thank you to our Veterans and their families for their sacrifices



made to protect Americans and the freedoms we value. Your service cannot be overstated.

Veteran Resources:

- PA Vet Connect - PA Department of Veteran Affairs
- Veterans and Loved Ones - Give an Hour Mental Health Resources
- Dial 988 for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline; Press 1 for Veteran/Loved ones of Veteran (You do not need to be enrolled in VA benefits to access the Crisis Line)

GRACE Lutheran Land Acknowledgement:

Grace Lutheran Church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Upcoming DEIB Dates:

- 11/11 Veterans Day
- 11/13-11/19 Transgender Awareness Week

Interested in joining the DEIB conversation? Contact Natalie Slane at nataliejslane@gmail.com or Sarah Rodgers at skrodgers@hotmail.com.

Sounds of Praise Worship Service

A worship service in joyful thanks for the gift of music

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

(6:30 p.m., following Grace's Thanksgiving dinner)

This service features hymns, readings, and six anthems commissioned by Grace in 2021, 2022 and 2023 to commemorate our heritage; share God's words about mercy, hope, and grace; and celebrate our 125th anniversary.

Commissioned music includes:

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty.....Liz Peters
Rung by The Bells of Grace; Sarah Rodgers, director

Be Thou My Vision.....Michael Costello
Cynthia Mills, organist

Three anthems commissioned for our choirs.....Michael John Trotta

- Our Hope in You is Strong
- May Christ's Love Possess My Whole
- Let All Your Graces Be Outpoured

Sung by our adult choir and singers from Grace's choral ensembles

Let the Whole Creation Cry.....Brenda Austin
Rung by The Bells of Grace; Sarah Rodgers, director

The service will last approximately 45-55 minutes. Please join us!

Anti-Hunger Update - 6,670 Served!

The total number of people served through Grace Lutheran's Food Distributions since December is 6,670 and the total families are 2,252. We have had the honor to help MANY people in our community/neighborhood.

We are starting to feel more comfortable using the technology to check in our neighbors in need as they move through the line of cars at our Fresh Express Food Distributions. Tech support has been great! A huge thank you to Grace Lutheran for installing the Internet connectors so we can use the WiFi in the parking lot! Also another huge thank you to the brave volunteers who have learned how to use the iPads. We look forward to training a few more people as well.

The largest thank you goes out to ALL of the GRACE members who have helped in some manner with the Anti-Hunger team! None of this would be possible without everyone working together as a team against hunger. As you meet the neighbors being helped, you realize that we can all make a difference in the lives of people of all ages, just as God has asked us to do. It takes about 20 volunteers to prepare and run a Food Distribution. We can always use volunteers, so if you are able to help part of the time or the entire time on Thursdays, please contact Kathy Kalbach at kathymkalbach@gmail.com.

We will continue to hold two Food Distributions per month at Grace Lutheran Church on the **2nd and 4th Thursday of each month (November will use the 5th Thursday instead of the 4th Thursday)**.



Future Food Distribution Dates at Grace Lutheran Church

November 9
November 30
December 14
December 28

Starting at **1:30 p.m.** to unpack food and **3:30 p.m.** to distribute.

Altar Poinsettias \$10 each



Orders due by **Sunday, November 12**
You may make these "In memory of,"
"In honor of," or "To the glory of God."



**Make all checks payable to
Grace Lutheran Church / Memo: Poinsettias**

Name _____ Envelope # _____

Phone/Email _____

White # _____ Red # _____

In memory (Inscription) _____

White # _____ Red # _____

In honor (Inscription) _____

White # _____ Red # _____ To the glory of God _____

Flowers may be picked up after the **9 p.m.**
Christmas Eve service on December 24
or after the **10:00 a.m.** Christmas Day service.

Alternative Giving Option:

Support of the Anti-Hunger Programs coordinated by the YMCA of Centre County enables so many programs across Centre County. Students in 9 school districts and 3 private schools enrolled in the "Y" Backpack Program receive a backpack full of food each weekend during the school year. The "Y" facilitates Fresh Express Food Distributions, hosted by Central PA Food Bank, at 14 locations county-wide including places like Snow Shoe where there are no groceries available, and twice a month here at Grace. The "Y" also deploys the Travelin' Table and Hometown Heroes firetruck as mobile feeding units that will meet the needs of children in our community that do not have access to nutritious meals and other important resources they need to sustain healthy physical and mental growth.

**Make all checks payable to:
Grace Lutheran Church / Memo: Anti Hunger Program**

Name _____ Envelope # _____

Phone/Email _____

In memory (Inscription) _____

In honor (Inscription) _____

To the glory of God _____

To be included in the donor list on Christmas Eve please make your donation
by **December 17.**

Final donation deadline is **December 31, 2023.**

HARVEST HOME - Your gift makes a difference!

Harvest Home is an ALSM appeal to congregations and is celebrated as a way to share our bounty with those who are less fortunate. Your generous donations will help ALSM to touch the lives of the residents of our senior communities. Donation envelopes will be available in the Upper Commons area, by the elevator, beginning mid-November.

Contact person: Bonnie Miller,
blm7515@aol.com.

Christmas Cards for Inmates Update

Because the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections is no longer allowing cards to be sent to their inmates, CentrePeace has postponed, for a year, the Christmas Cards for the Incarcerated Program. In addition, there is currently a stockpile of cards that will more than fill their requests for 2023. The hundreds of cards received from Grace Lutheran were greatly appreciated by CentrePeace coordinator Barbara Squires. Any questions can be directed to Lois Lynn at loissteve@comcast.net or 814-590-5695.

Help our Neighbors who are Food Insecure

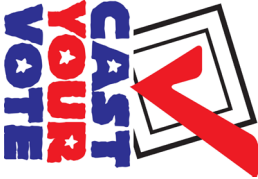

The Food Bank of the State College is always in need of donations. Grace Lutheran church collects donations monthly in the church narthex on the first Sunday of each month at each worship service. Cash/check donations, grocery store gift cards, and brown paper grocery bags are always accepted. Check out this link for the most current needs list. <https://scfoodbank.org/donate/current-needs-list>.



November 2023


















GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 205 South Garner Street • State College, PA 16801
 Phone: 814-238-2478 • Webpage: www.glcpcpa.org

November 2023							December 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

Day	Date	Event
Sunday	November 5	All Saints Sunday Holy Communion Milestone
Monday	November 6	
Tuesday	November 7	9:30a Staff Mtg / Fireside 
Wednesday	November 8	3p Worship at the Village 4p FiLink / Miller Cntr 5p REJOICE / Choir Rm. 5-15p Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 6p Super Wednesday Disciples Together/ Library Holy Communion Instruction /Sanctuary Adult Ed / Fireside 7p Choir Practice/ Sanctuary
Thursday	November 9	7:30p AA Group/Library Boyscouts / Harkins Hall
Friday	November 10	5:30p NA Group/Library
Saturday	November 11	7:30a Veterans Day PSU Football Car Parking/Grace Parking Lot 
Wednesday	November 8	11:30a Butter Braids pick-up/ Fireside 4p FiLink / Miller Cntr 5p REJOICE /Choir Rm. 5-15p Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 6p Super Wednesday Family Activities / Miller Cntr 6-15p Adult Ed / Fireside 7p Choir Practice/ Sanctuary
Thursday	November 9	1:30p Ministry Coordinators / on ZOOM 11a Veterans Day Service and Parade / Sanctuary 3:30p Food Distribution in Grace Parking Lot 7:30p AA Group / Library Boyscouts / Harkins Hall
Friday	November 10	5:30p NA Group/Library Little Pankins



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Sunday, November 12	Monday, November 13	Tuesday, November 14	Wednesday, November 15	Thursday, November 16	Friday, November 17	Saturday, November 18
24th Sunday After Pentecost Jared Box Dedication Bucket Collection Starts 8a Worship 9a Worship & ECHO SS 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Choir / Fireside Munchkin Brunchkin / Miller Cntr 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe SS / Narthex 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary 11:30a LCM luncheon 6p Worship Altar Poinsettia Orders Due 	GLP Toys for Tots Collection Begins 6p Sisters of Grace / Fireside 	9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside Church Council / Fireside 5p REJOICE / Choir Rm. Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5p Super Wednesday Thanksgiving Dinner/ Harkins Hall 6:30p Sounds of Praise Worship / Sanctuary 	5p REJOICE / Choir Rm. Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5p Super Wednesday Thanksgiving Dinner/ Harkins Hall 6:30p Sounds of Praise Worship / Sanctuary 	1p Stephen Ministry / Fireside 6p Social Ministry Bucket Collection Mtg / Fireside 7:30p AA Group / Library Boyscouts / Harkins Hall 	GLP Staff Meeting No Enrichment Classes 5:30p NA Group/Library Middle School Fun Night / Miller Cntr 6p 	7:30a PSU Football Car Parking/Grace Parking Lot 
Sunday, November 19 25th Sunday After Pentecost 8a Worship 9a Worship & ECHO SS Affirmation of Baptism 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Choir / Fireside 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe SS / Narthex 11:30a LCM luncheon 4p Confirmation Class/ Miller Cntr 5p HS Youth Grp/ Miller Cntr	GLP Family Thanksgiving / Chapel 	GLP Family Thanksgiving / Chapel 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 10:30a Garden of Readin' / Library 8p Young Adult Bible Study / Fireside	GLP No School / Thanksgiving Break 5:15p Super Wednesday / Harkins Hall 6:15p Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie 7p Social Choir Practice/ Sanctuary 	GLP No School / Thanksgiving Break 7:30p AA Group / Library Boyscouts / Harkins Hall Happy Thanksgiving 	GLP No School / Thanksgiving Break 5:30p NA Group/Library	Saturday, November 25
Sunday, November 26 Christ the King Sunday 8a Worship 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Choir / Fireside 10:30a Worship 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary 11:30a LCM Luncheon / Fireside	GLP School Resumes 	GLP Staff Appreciation Breakfast 4p FitLink / Miller Cntr 5p REJOICE / Choir Rm. Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday / Harkins Hall 6:15p Mid-week Advent Service / Sanctuary 7p Choir Practice/ Sanctuary	GLP Staff Appreciation Breakfast 4p FitLink / Miller Cntr 5p REJOICE / Choir Rm. Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday / Harkins Hall 6:15p Mid-week Advent Service / Sanctuary 7p Choir Practice/ Sanctuary	GLP Advent Walk 3:30p Food Distribution in Grace Parking Lot 6p Advent Craft Workshop / Fireside 7:30p AA Group / Library Boyscouts / Harkins Hall 	GLP No School / Thanksgiving Break 5:30p NA Group/Library	Thursday, November 30 Advent Walk 3:30p Food Distribution in Grace Parking Lot 6p Advent Craft Workshop / Fireside 7:30p AA Group / Library Boyscouts / Harkins Hall 
Sunday, November 26 Christ the King Sunday 8a Worship 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Choir / Fireside 10:30a Worship 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary 11:30a LCM Luncheon / Fireside	GLP School Resumes 	GLP Staff Appreciation Breakfast 4p FitLink / Miller Cntr 5p REJOICE / Choir Rm. Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday / Harkins Hall 6:15p Mid-week Advent Service / Sanctuary 7p Choir Practice/ Sanctuary	GLP Staff Appreciation Breakfast 4p FitLink / Miller Cntr 5p REJOICE / Choir Rm. Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday / Harkins Hall 6:15p Mid-week Advent Service / Sanctuary 7p Choir Practice/ Sanctuary	GLP Advent Walk 3:30p Food Distribution in Grace Parking Lot 6p Advent Craft Workshop / Fireside 7:30p AA Group / Library Boyscouts / Harkins Hall 	GLP No School / Thanksgiving Break 5:30p NA Group/Library	Friday, November 24 GLP No School / Thanksgiving Break 5:30p NA Group/Library
Sunday, November 26 Christ the King Sunday 8a Worship 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Choir / Fireside 10:30a Worship 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary 11:30a LCM Luncheon / Fireside	GLP School Resumes 	GLP Staff Appreciation Breakfast 4p FitLink / Miller Cntr 5p REJOICE / Choir Rm. Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday / Harkins Hall 6:15p Mid-week Advent Service / Sanctuary 7p Choir Practice/ Sanctuary	GLP Staff Appreciation Breakfast 4p FitLink / Miller Cntr 5p REJOICE / Choir Rm. Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday / Harkins Hall 6:15p Mid-week Advent Service / Sanctuary 7p Choir Practice/ Sanctuary	GLP Advent Walk 3:30p Food Distribution in Grace Parking Lot 6p Advent Craft Workshop / Fireside 7:30p AA Group / Library Boyscouts / Harkins Hall 	GLP No School / Thanksgiving Break 5:30p NA Group/Library	Friday, November 24 GLP No School / Thanksgiving Break 5:30p NA Group/Library

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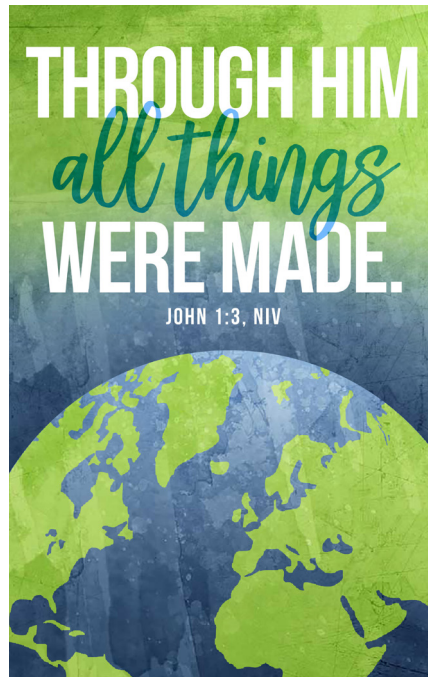
The Love of God and a Grandpa

This article appeared in the **Sunday**, Oct. 22, 2023 edition of the *Centre Daily Times*.

In less than two months, I will be graced with a brand new title: Grandpa. My first grandchild, a little girl, is due in early December. So far mother and baby are doing splendidly, and we're all so excited to meet this child whom we already love so deeply.

My wife and I adopted both our children, so our daughter's pregnancy has been a whole new experience for us. We have excitedly followed a pregnancy app that compares the baby's size each week to a fruit or vegetable. It's clear already that this grandpa will be a very soft touch. Already the family joke is that even though she's not yet born, the baby has me wrapped around her little finger. I don't disagree.

Look, I know that not every parent/child relationship is healthy. I can only speak from my own experience. I vividly remember the first time I held both my daughter and my son. From the moment their skin touched mine, I knew I would love them forever and do anything to keep them safe, even at the risk of my own life. I never realized I had the capacity to love so fully and so unconditionally. Indeed, to be a parent is to love without counting the cost. And believe me, there is a cost beyond money in the form of sleepless nights spent tending, consoling, and worrying. But no matter what happens, somehow we never stop loving our children. Likewise, our imperfect children somehow



manage to keep loving their equally imperfect parents too.

Whenever I wonder about the capacity of a very flawed person like me to love like this, my mind turns to God, who loves us even more perfectly, regardless how many times we disappoint, rebel, or try to run away. How can God love us despite our many failings? It seems to be a universal question, one most eloquently addressed thousands of years ago in Psalm 8 by someone who was contemplating the night sky while talking to God:

“When I look at the sky, which you have made, at the moon and the stars, which you set in their places — what are human beings, that you think of them; mere mortals, that you care for them? Yet you made them inferior only to yourself; you crowned them with glory and honor. You appointed them rulers over everything you made; you placed them over

all creation: sheep and cattle, and the wild animals too; the birds and the fish and the creatures in the seas. O Lord, our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world!”

In the end, the eternal and unconditional love God has for us and the love we possess for our children and grandchildren is a holy mystery. But at some level, our ability as humans to love one another depends on our ability to see the humanity and, indeed, the image of God in the eyes of the other. I'm already able to see those sacred attributes in my unborn granddaughter whom I've never met. So why is it often so hard for me — and perhaps you too — to see that humanity and divine image in the people all around us? Is it possible that the political polarization in our nation and the brutal wars around the globe stem at least in part from this failure to see each other as God sees us, as people of inherent worth and dignity?

It's a problem no one article will solve. But what I can do in these few words is to remind you, dear reader, that you have dignity and worth, just because you exist. God loves you. No matter what you think you've done to annoy, alienate, or chase God away, you remain beloved and that will never end. But remember that God feels the same way about everyone else - even the person you believe to be your enemy. Imagine how different our world would be if we could just see others as God sees them. I need to make a lot of progress on this. Maybe you do too. But right now, I must run to the store. Grandpa has more presents to buy for the baby.

~ Pastor Schul

CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 1

- 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion Instruction / Sanctuary

Sunday, November 5

- Holy Communion Milestone
- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex

Saturday, November 11

- 7:30 a.m. Penn State Football Car Parking

Sunday, November 12

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School /Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Munchkin Brunchkin / Miller Center
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex

Friday, November 17

- 6:00 p.m. Middle School Fun Night / Miller Center

Saturday, November 18

- 7:30 a.m. Penn State Football Car Parking

Sunday, November 19

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School & Affirmation of Baptism / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation / Miller Center
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group / Miller Center

Sunday, November 26

- No Sunday School (Thanksgiving)



Synod Youth Event - The Weekend

Last call for youth for the Weekend Synod Youth Event.

The early bird window is closed but the regular registration goes until **November 15**. Please let us know if your youth is thinking about attending. The dates are **December 8-10**. We will be at St. James Lutheran in Huntingdon for a weekend of worship, fun, games, and service with other youth from around our synod. We will be sleeping at the Comfort Inn.



Contact Us!

Any interest or questions about any Faith Formation activity, please email Cindy and Peter at faithformation@glcpa.org.

CALENDAR

December Preview

Sunday, December 3

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex
- 12:00 p.m. Advent Fest: Holy Lands / Harkins Hall

Sunday, December 8-10

- **The Weekend** - Synod Youth Event - St James Lutheran, Huntingdon, PA

Sunday, December 10

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex

Friday, December 15

- 6:00 p.m. Middle School Fun Night / Miller Center

Sunday, December 17

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex
- Christmas Caroling
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation / Miller Center
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group / Miller Center

Sunday, December 24

- Christmas Eve Worship (No Sunday School)

Sunday, December 31

- No Sunday School

Munchkin Brunckin Reboot

Calling all families of little ones (ages 0-4) and their siblings! We are hosting a once a month gathering in the Miller Center. Our first Munchkin Brunchkin will be **Sunday, November 12 at 10 a.m. in the Miller Center!** Munchkin Brunchkin is a ministry for any family with one or more children, ages 0-4 years. This is an intentional time for parents to gather not only as a family, but with other parents, as well. Expect to have a family bible study time using the Frolic First Bible, and playtime for children as well as coffee and snacks for adults. Older siblings are welcome, too; this is a family sharing time. Please come! Let's grow our faith together!



Kids and Families in Worship . . . All are Welcome

Worship is a special opportunity to sing together, share peace, and get to know one another across the generations. Please take time to introduce yourself and get to know your Grace family of all ages. Children of all ages are valued members of the Grace community, sharing in the journey of love and life. Their noises, needs, squirms, songs, faith, and love are welcome.



We Are Family

You are welcome to:

- **Come & Go** - Arriving late and leaving early are just fine. You are welcome in worship for as long as you choose to be here.
- **Sit Where You Like** - The activity, music, and art in the front of the sanctuary can capture children's interest. You are welcome to sit up front.
- **Move Around** - In worship children are welcome to participate freely with their family in the pew and in the Narthex feel free to use the rocking chairs, books, and soft toys.
- **Keep Busy** - Children entering the sanctuary are welcome to stop in the Narthex for coloring & activity pages, youth Bibles, and fidget toys.
- **Take Care** - You are welcome to chestfeed, breastfeed, or bottle feed your baby anywhere in this building. Changing tables are available in all bathrooms.



CALLING ALL YOUTH

Middle School Fun Night

Middle School Fun Night dates for your calendar are **November 17, December 15, & January 12**. We plan to eat, hangout, and play games together. Friends are welcome. Watch for an email prior to the event.

ECHO Sunday School

ECHO Sunday School continues with children and parents attending **9 a.m. worship** in the sanctuary. After the Ministry Moment, children through 5th grade may leave with Cindy and Peter to Harkins Hall. We will storytell the gospel lesson, have a game, craft, science, and music. After approximately 20 minutes youth will return to the sanctuary to join their family for sharing the peace, communion, and closing hymns. We continue this format for families to attend worship together, support all family members to hear the Word of God in many and various ways, and to encourage participation in a life of faith.



Note: No Sunday School November 26

HS Youth Group

All High School Youth and friends are welcome to join us for Youth Group on **November 19** and **December 17**. We will be in Miller Center from **5:00-7:00 p.m.** We will share a meal and discuss the topics of the Youth Gathering of Brave, Authentic, Free, Disruptive, and Disciples. These discussions are helpful to everyone, even for youth who are not attending the gathering in New Orleans.



Cafe Sunday School

Calling all Middle School and High School youth: Join us for Cafe Sunday School! We will meet at **10:45 a.m.** in the Narthex each Sunday to depart for a cafe downtown. Options are Starbucks on Pugh Street, Bagel Crust in Calder Way, or any other takeout cafe, which we will decide once Sunday School gets rolling. Bring money or order from your phone as we walk. One Sunday a month we will stay in the Miller Center Kitchen and cook our own food too. Come join in the fun and discussion!

Note: No Sunday School November 26



CHECK IT OUT!

Confirmation Classes

We will meet in the Miller Center on **November 19** and **December 17** at **4:00-5:00 p.m.** Confirmation at Grace is geared toward students entering 6th through 8th grade. This is our instructional time and will be very classroom-like. For the social and teambuilding time, please see Middle School Fun Night. Both events go hand in hand. These two events, along with Cafe Sunday School on Sunday mornings, form our Middle School opportunities.



Car Parking

Our car parking dates in November are **Nov. 11** and **Nov. 18.**



Parking cars in our own Grace

Lutheran parking lot is our only fundraiser for youth attending the ELCA Youth Gatherings. The gathering is planned for **July 14-21, 2024**, in New Orleans with days added on for sightseeing. Students currently in 8th through 12th grade are eligible to attend.

Holy Communion Instruction

Interested in Holy Communion Instruction? Parents, if you see your child being interested in communion or wondering why they don't get the wafer and juice, then it might be time! Or if you want your child to learn more about communion, this class is for you! The class will meet in the sanctuary at **6:00-7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, October 25** and **Wednesday, November 1.** Our celebration of communion is scheduled for **November 5** at a service of your choice. Join us for the second class even if you missed the first!



Free Piano Recital on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. to Benefit State College Area Meals on Wheels

Pianist Adam Smith will kick off the holiday season with a recital in support of State College Meals on Wheels on **Friday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary of Grace Lutheran Church. Admission is free, but we hope Adam's beautiful music – his gift in support of Meals on Wheels - will encourage generous donations to support the organization's mission and programs. The recital includes arrangements of sacred and secular carols and will last 50-60 minutes, including a brief interval.



The beneficiary, State College Area Meals on Wheels, is a non-profit 501(c)3 that prepares and delivers nutritious, affordable meals to the elderly and disabled living within the State College Area School District to help maintain their quality of life and allow them to remain in their own homes. The State College chapter was founded in 1971 and uses Grace Lutheran's facilities to serve approximately 150 clients five days per week. Since the local organization operates on donations and receives no government tax dollars, its services are extended to people of all ages (currently ages 14 through 98) who have a wide variety of health concerns.

Adam writes:

“As we enter the season of Advent, our lives seem to enter a constant state of hurry in the buildup to Christmas. One of the things I've appreciated the most about serving as a church musician has been the opportunity to slow down and appreciate the waiting. Music serves as an invitation to be present, and I invite you to take some time and enjoy a range of music, ranging from nostalgic and reflective to joyful. While music provides spiritual sustenance (and a break from consumer culture), the holidays are also a time to remember the needs of those around us. I invite you to consider supporting State College Meals on Wheels, an organization that brings daily bread to so many.”

Pianist Adam Smith has enhanced worship at Grace Lutheran Church since 2019, playing for midweek Advent and Lenten services as well as leading Psalm 151, which provides music for our Sunday evening services. Please join Adam in supporting Meals on Wheels on **December 1**, or consider sending a donation to Meals on Wheels at 205 South Garner Street, State College, PA. 16801 in gratitude for Adam's music and the organization's mission. Thank you!

2023 Crop Walk Update

Thank you to all who participated in the annual CROP Walk on **Sunday, October 22** either by walking, donating or both. As of walk day, the walk raised \$13,041. Grace contributed at least \$2,703 of that total. That amount is understated because online donations of nearly \$2,500 are not yet available in detail. Those details will be obtained and additional updates about walk totals will be provided as they become available. Please know that even though the walk has already occurred, you can still make a donation.

- Online donations can be made at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/grace-lutheran-church-2>
- Checks made payable to CWS/CROP can be given to Judy Rockey or Carla Rossi.



Super Wednesday

Super Wednesday dinners continue each **Wednesday in Harkins Hall from 5:15 to 6 p.m.** Menus are published each week in Grace E-notes and the Sunday Church Bulletin. Suggested donation: \$6/person with a \$15 family max.



Lutheran Campus Ministry / Lutheran Student Community at Penn State

When you are at college, the deadlines and demands can get heavy. Lutheran Campus Ministry offers a place where you can step away to find community and support, share worship and a meal, learn about God, yourself and the world, and simply be welcome to come as you are!

Remember, Fall/Thanksgiving Break is **Friday, November 17 through Sunday, November 26.** Lutheran Campus Ministry's events and programs will be on hiatus that week!

Student Community Weekly

Thursday Evening Worship at **6 p.m.** in the Worship Hall at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center on campus (Corner of Allen Street and Curtin Road), followed by dinner with the student community in the Harshbarger Room.

Student Meal After Morning Worship

Sunday late morning after **10:30 a.m. worship** gather with other students for lunch. Build connections and community with other students. Check the bulletin for location and more info!

Sunday Evening Change

On Sunday, November 12, we will hold the final 6 p.m. Alternative Worship Service. Pianist and Psalm 151 Coordinator, Adam Smith, has accepted a job in the Lancaster area and will be leaving music leadership at Grace. On November 12, we will bid Farewell and Godspeed to both Adam and vocalist Kaylee Yeager. Through the years, a wide variety of musicians, students, and congregation members have found the 6 p.m. Worship Service to be an important part of their faith journey, and we have been blessed by this worshiping community. Nevertheless, change is an ongoing part of ministry. Watch the Lutheran Campus Ministry website and socials for info on Sunday plans in the future.

Other Opportunities!

We offer service events, formal and informal discussions, social gatherings, and more! Check our website and calendar for additional opportunities and info and add yourself to our listserv at lutheranpennstate.org. Follow us and Like our social media on Instagram and Facebook [@lutheranpennstate](https://www.facebook.com/lutheranpennstate). Reach out anytime to lutheran@psu.edu.



Questions, Not Answers

Questions, Not Answers "QNA" will meet on **Sunday, November 12 at 7 p.m. in Fireside.** Please come to join in our discussion. Previous participants and those who just want to check it out once or occasionally are all welcome. We plan to discuss the question, "**Is scripture influenced by pagan stories?**" Contact Carla Rossi, ckrossi@comcast.net, for more information or with any questions.

Did you know in the Gospels that Jesus asks more than 300 questions and he is asked nearly 200, but he directly answered only a handful of them? So, come to QNA to continue the biblical tradition of asking good, complicated questions, but be prepared to leave without answers.

Did you know...

...that offering Envelopes will be available to pick up beginning **Nov. 19** in the Narthex.



Offering Envelopes



Dates to Remember!

November 8

Butter Braids and Cake Rolls Delivery, Fireside room, 11:30 a.m.

November 9

Veteran's Day Assembly and Parade

November 10

SCASD 3-hr delay, GLP in session as usual

November 13

Toys for Tots Collection begins

November 17

GLP Staff Meeting, 12:15 p.m. (No Enrichment class, morning classes in session, as usual)

November 20 & 21

Family Thanksgiving Chapel, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

November 22-24

No School, Thanksgiving Vacation

November 27

School Resumes

November 29

GLP Staff Appreciation Breakfast

November 30 & December 1


Advent Walk

Butter Braids and Cake Rolls Pick-Up

If you ordered Butter Braids or Cake Rolls, you can pick them up on **Wednesday,**

November 8 after 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Please be aware that the pastries are frozen. We do not have space in our freezers to hold them for you. Thank you for supporting our tuition assistance and all-school events funds!





Christian Focus Box for November

Christian Theme – We Give Thanks to God.
“God fills my life with good things.”
~ Psalm 103:5

Science Theme: Out of This World
Afternoon Enrichment Theme:
Breathtaking Birds!



Veterans Day

Grace Lutheran Preschool will be celebrating Veterans Day on **Thursday, November 9, 2023**, with its annual Veterans Day assembly and parade. This year will be an extra special event because Grace Lutheran Church will be installing

a memorial marker near the Columbarium for Grace's Veterans. Pastor Schul will dedicate the marker during our school's Veterans Day celebration.

We would like to invite any past or present military persons to join us in the sanctuary at **11 a.m.** for a short presentation. Following that, we will parade around the church to the courtyard for the dedication. This invitation is open to anyone who would like to show their thanks to our veterans. Please contact us at the school office (814-238-8110) if you have any questions. Put on your red, white, and blue and celebrate with Grace Lutheran Preschool!

Toys for Tots

Grace Lutheran Preschool will host a drop-off site for the Toys for Tots collection again this year.

This impressive program provides toys for needy children in our area. If you would like to donate a toy, please place your unwrapped gift in its original packaging in one of the collection boxes at the school entrance and in the Narthex from **November 13th through December 8th**. If you want to make a cash donation or volunteer, go to <https://lemont-pa.toysfortots.org/local> for details. Thanks for your support!



A Look Back at October

We started the month off with a visit from Firefighter Dave. He brought a firetruck on **October 5th** and a fire engine on **October 6th**. He dressed up in his gear for the children to see what a firefighter would look like in a real fire. They finished the tour with a walk through the back seat of the trucks.



In mid-October, a first-year Penn State engineering class made their annual visit to GLP. These students research the developmental level of 4 to 5-year-olds and then make toys or games for our Jr. Kindergarten and 4-year-old classes to try out. This year there was a Mickey Mouse Cheese House, Dan's Dizzy Dozer, Bluey's Magic Tree House, Penn State Pizza Maker, Cookie Monster Corn Hole, and Lightning (McQueen's) Launch. It was a lot of fun for our young students and for the older PSU students.

~ Senior Pastor Cont'd. from p. 3

to dedicate the marker on **Thursday, November 9, around 11:30 a.m.** as part of Grace Lutheran Preschool's annual Veterans Day event.

New Sound System in Harkins Hall

Supply chain difficulties have plagued many of our planned upgrades to our sound systems at Grace, but one project is now complete. We have replaced the 1960's tube-style system in Harkins Hall with a new, modern sound system and new speakers. We used it for the first time as part of Super Wednesday announcements on **October 18**. The flexibility of the new system will allow us to do many wonderful things with the vast array of events we hold in that space.

AdventFest: Palestine

Over a year ago we selected Palestine as this year's "virtual location" for AdventFest. We did so because the West Bank of Palestine contains several vibrant Lutheran congregations. I've been blessed to visit a few of them and to meet their pastors. Centering our celebration with the Palestinian Lutherans is not a political statement but, rather, simply a chance to further broaden our understanding of what it means to be a Lutheran Christian.

AdventFest in Palestine will be especially meaningful this year, given all the conflict that is happening there. My heart breaks for innocent Israelis and Palestinians on both sides. I am particularly worried about the Palestinian Lutheran congregations, because they often find themselves in a vise, caught between religious extremists on either side. They are true peacemakers.

At Advent Fest you will see some videos from Pastor Rodney Said,

pastor of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope in Ramallah. They are a Lutheran congregation in Ramallah, north of Jerusalem, in the West Bank. It is a congregation of about 400 people; they are Palestinian Christians and worship in the Arabic language.

Pastor Said recently asked me to write a letter to his congregation to let them know that they are not alone and that we are praying for them. I was very happy to do so. Pastor Said translated it into Arabic, read it to his congregation, and told me that it helped renew their hope. I often feel helpless to make a difference in a conflict as entrenched as the Middle East, and so writing the letter and praying for the people of Hope helped me. I encourage you to pray for them as well.

November Dates to Remember

- 11/5: All Saints Sunday - bring photos of your loved ones in heaven; the photos will be placed in front of the altar to assure us that in Christ we remain surrounded by the "great cloud of witness" of the saints in heaven.
- 11/15: Thanksgiving Dinner and a special musical worship event featuring Grace's six recent musical commissions
- 11/22: Thanksgiving Eve Worship and the Pie Social
- 11/26: Christ the King Sunday

As I wrote last month, these are important and meaningful events that will fill and replenish your soul and spirit. They are ways that we love our gracious God and love our neighbor. I hope you will prioritize them in the midst of lives that are so busy. May we never allow the merely "good" to crowd out the "essential."

Prayers at the Cross

Surely by now you have noticed

that we have a large cross within our main entrance and invite people to leave prayer requests in a basket there. It has proven to be a very meaningful addition to that space, is used by many people who are not members of our congregation, and as a result the basket is overflowing with prayers. To make space for new prayers, we will occasionally empty the basket so that the older prayers can be prayed from our altar on Sunday morning (without betraying any confidences). But rest assured that whether the prayers are in the basket or at our altar, God knows and cares about your needs.

Finally...

One of my role models for both ministry and manhood is Fred Rogers, famous for "Mister Rogers Neighborhood" on PBS. And so I will close today with a simple but meaningful prayer that Mister Rogers prayed each time he entered his television studio: "Dear God, let some word that is heard be Yours." I think that's a lovely prayer, one suitable for just about anyone at any time. Perhaps Mister Rogers' prayer will be one that you will want to add to your prayer toolbox as well. Peace be with you.

~ Pastor Schul

Did you know...

... that Advent is just around the corner? Grace's first midweek Advent service will be held on **Wednesday, November 29 at 6:15 p.m.** The First Sunday of Advent is **December 3, 2023.**

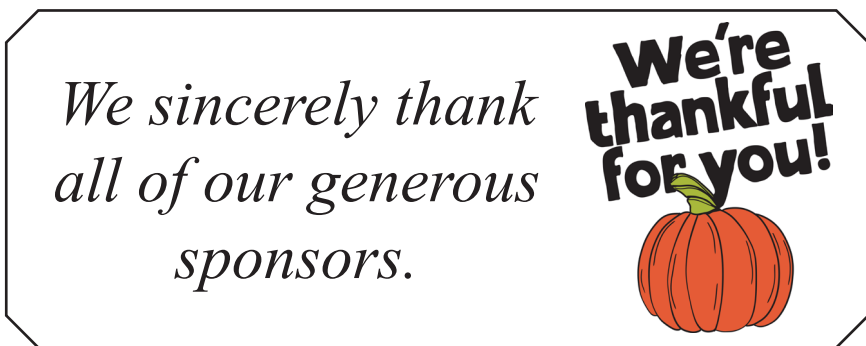


November Worship Sponsors

Altar Flowers	Bulletin Covers	Radio Sponsors
Nov. 5 George & Jane Myers Dedicated to the Glory of God	Nov. 5 George & Jane Myers Dedicated to the Glory of God	Nov. 5 George & Jane Myers Dedicated to the Glory of God
Nov. 12 Paul & Collette Beuther Dedicated to the Glory of God	Nov. 12 Paul & Collette Beuther Dedicated to the Glory of God	Nov. 12 Brian Christian Family Dedicated in memory of Kathryn Christian
Nov. 19 Mary Ann Claar Dedicated in memory of her parents, John & Julia First	Nov. 19 Mary Ann Claar Dedicated in memory of her parents, John & Julia First	Nov. 19 Mary Ann Claar Dedicated in memory of her parents, John & Julia First
Nov. 26 Theresa Facini Dedicated in memory of Rus Scheuren	Nov. 22 Cheryl Evans Dedicated in memory of her husband	Nov. 26 Ken & Diane Kulp Dedicated to the Glory of God
	Nov. 26 Louise Tarman Dedicated in memory of her parents	

Live-Stream Sponsors

- Nov. 5 Daryl & Nancy Johnson
Dedicated to the Glory of God
- Nov. 12 Paul & Collette Beuther
Dedicated to the Glory of God
- Nov. 19 Daryl & Nancy Johnson
Dedicated to the Glory of God
- Nov. 26 Sponsored Anonymously
Dedicated to the Glory of God



Coffee Hour Sponsors - Joe and Cindy Nicosia 814-571-6922 jnicosia3@comcast.net

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Nov. 5 Don and Deana Coine | Please join our hosts each Sunday in Harkins Hall between 9:45 and 10:30 a.m. for coffee and treats. We rely on volunteers to sponsor and/or host. You may sponsor and host (treats at your discretion) or just sponsor (others will host). The cost to "sponsor only" is \$30 (check to Grace Lutheran Church with "Coffee Hour" and the sponsored date in the memo line). |
| Nov. 12 Lois Lynn and Leslie Wagner | |
| Nov. 19 Linda Domin | |
| Nov. 26 Joe and Cindy Nicosia | |

Acolytes - Kristin Knowles kristinmknowles@gmail.com

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
| Nov. 5 Kaylin Slane and Renee Buda | Nov. 5 Andy Horn and Lauren Knowles |
| Nov. 12 Lily and Gunnar Rinehimer | Nov. 12 Mya and Jordan Hockenberry |
| Nov. 19 Netta Horn and Kaylin Slane | Nov. 19 Renee Buda and Anna Long |
| Nov. 26 Sydney Lintal and Anna Coup | Nov. 26 Lauren and Fiona Knowles |

Lectors - Rebecca Arnold Desmarais beckyllynn0621@gmail.com

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
| Nov. 5 Rev. Dennis Snider | Nov. 5 open | Nov. 5 open |
| Nov. 12 Julie Miller | Nov. 12 open | Nov. 12 Ellen Campbell |
| Nov. 19 Julie Miller | Nov. 19 Eileen Schroeder | Nov. 19 open |
| Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Eve -open | Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Eve -open | Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Eve -open |
| Nov. 26 Rev. Dennis Snider | Nov. 26 open | Nov. 26 open |

Pastoral Acts for October

Pastor Hetrick did a committal service for Forrest Remick on **Oct. 12, 2023**.

Helen Manfull passed into eternal rest on **Oct. 15th, 2023**.

November Birthdays

1 Brady Bendik
 1 Camryn Bendik
 1 Nichelle Nicosia
 1 Julia Simcoe
 1 Evan Stearns
 2 Linda Schul
 2 David Heatwole
 3 Madelyn Ulmer
 4 Evelyn Dungan
 4 Abigail Fozard
 4 Brenna Nicosia
 4 Georgia Warren
 4 Ryan Morrison
 5 Frank Blazina
 6 Michelle Pletcher
 6 Anne Whitney
 7 Pamela Asencio
 7 Chrissy Castles
 7 Ricky Larson
 7 Trey Nicosia
 7 Hiroshi Ohmoto
 7 Nora Stager
 8 Alexander Foor
 8 Alessandra
 Jeanmenne
 8 Merle McCalips
 8 Kayleigh Lombardi
 8 Marshall Mehring
 9 Katelyn Jeanmenne
 9 Ryan O'Donnell
 9 William McCombie

9 Kerry Richards
 10 Craig Evanego
 10 Cristin Long
 10 Adalyn Davidson
 11 Don Leon
 11 Hugo Chastain
 11 John Kalbach Jr.
 11 Paul Wagner
 11 Amy Nevlng
 12 Christa Watschke
 12 Leland Glenna
 12 Leah Leidy
 12 Andy Vanden
 Heuvel
 13 Katie Ellis
 13 Matthew
 Kisenwether
 13 Heidi Lambert
 13 Marc Lintal
 13 Laura Young
 13 Richard Baysinger
 14 Trent Dinant
 14 Mitchell Walker
 14 Jack Sosnoskie
 14 Katy Stager
 15 Christopher Mahon
 15 T. J. Nelson
 16 Marion Deppen
 16 Lily Glenna
 17 Allen Fiscus
 17 Miles Harlor

18 Barbara Bingaman
 18 Claire Johnson
 18 Gregory DeMetrick
 19 Delores Curtis
 19 Martha Showalter
 20 Max Jeanmenne
 20 Kristin Roman
 (Palmgren)
 21 Liam Hickman
 21 Andrew Stearns
 21 Savanah Chapman
 21 Charbel Smirat
 22 Ryan Haris
 22 Tori Moyer
 22 Laurel Sanders
 22 Kym Jackson
 22 Nathan Showalter
 23 Andrew Pickering
 23 Brody Pieniazek
 23 Victor Lombardi
 24 Ryan Evanego
 25 Lynn Rogers
 25 Isabella Cocolin
 25 Deborah Baysinger
 25 Samantha Smeal
 26 Lenore Horner
 26 Anna Long
 26 Alex Shisler
 26 Chris Turley
 26 Sandra Yohe
 27 Harry Burd

27 Patrick Donghia
 27 Olen Edgar
 27 Barbara Vogler
 28 Kevin Bender
 28 Lori Bendik
 28 Megan Egan
 28 Terry Garvin
 28 Adrianna Vasey
 29 Cindy Capperella
 29 Elliott Ta
 30 Juliet Arnold
 30 Judy Bausch
 30 Isaac Edgar
 30 Joseph Geise
 30 Kyla Heebner



Prayer List for November



All Military & National
 Guard and all serving in
 war-torn countries
 Mary Breon
 Tisana Breon, sister of
 Mary Breon
 Jim Campbell
 Lori Coup
 Andrew Cutter
 William Davies
 Annika Dellert
 Kevin Eby and family,
 friends of the Koths
 Steve & Janet Ellis, family of
 The Louder's

Norma Flanagan, mother
 of Jim Flanagan
 Cay Griel
 Rob Griffin
 Posey Haney
 Marcia Kell
 Jim Kratz, father of
 Pastor Hetrick
 Lisa & Ruthie, friends of
 the Roger's
 Shirley Lucas
 The family of Helen
 Manfull, upon her death
 Patti McLean, sister of
 Kelly Borchert

Amy Neveling
 Ronald Odland
 The family of Forrest
 Remick, upon his death
 Sharon Rivell
 Denise Rohrbach,
 godmother to Aaron
 Rohrbach
 Archie Sutherland
 Val Updegrove
 Besty Will
 Eleanor Zindler

Grace Notes

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State College, PA 16801
(814) 238-2478
www.glcpa.org

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Current Resident or:

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and on the
Radio (103.7 FM, 104.3 FM, 1450 AM, 1260 AM)
Live-streamed video of this service at www.glcpa.org

Enjoy pre-recorded Sunday Video Worship from our
website: glcpa.org anytime



Help us to better serve our local and global communities.
Scan here to make a contribution to Grace.



The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Pastor

- Grace Lutheran Church 814-238-2478
churchoffice@glcpa.org
- GLC Preschool 814-238-8110
glpk@glcpa.org
- Faith Formation Ministry
faithformation@glcpa.org

Gather • Feed • Send

Grace Lutheran Church is energized by the Holy Spirit and nurtured through God's Word and Sacrament to gather, feed, and send people in the name of Jesus Christ.